SPECIAL FEATURE
JUDITH MASSA

AUGUST 28, 1978

ON STAGE: DOLLY PARTON
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: LIKE MANY OTHER CITIES, WASHINGTON, D.C. IS NOTED FOR ITS LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRY MUSIC FANS. ABOUT 8,000 ENTHUSIASTIC COUNTRY MUSIC AFICIONADOS ATTENDED A RECENT CONCERT FEATURING SINGER DOLLY PARTON AT THE OPEN-AIR MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF WASHINGTON. HERE IS _____TO TELL US MORE ABOUT THE CONCERT AND ABOUT THE LADY WITH THE WELL-KNOWN VIBRATO SOPRANO VOICE.

TAPE: CUT ONE - MY TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN HOME (2:30 - CAN BE USED AT WILL)

VOICE: DOLLY PARTON IS CURRENTLY ONE OF THE REIGNING "QUEENS OF COUNTRY MUSIC", AND THOSE ATTENDING THIS RECENT CONCERT, OBVIOUSLY FELT THEY WERE IN THE PRESENCE OF SOMEONE SPECIAL. TUMULTUOUS APPLAUSE GREETED THE PETITE, CURVACEOUS PERFORMER AS SHE APPEARED ON STAGE DRESSED IN VARIOUS SHADES OF VIOLET AND MAUVE, SPORTING ONE OF HER WELL-COIFED BLONDE WIGS -- NOW A TRADEMARK. ACKNOWLEDGING THE ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME OF THE CROWD WITH A BROAD SMILE AND AN OVER-THE-HEAD WAVE, DOLLY IMMEDIATELY SETTLED DOWN TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND: ENTERTAINMENT. WITH HER PLEASANT, GIGGLY LAUGH AND HER OPEN WAY OF TALKING, SHE IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISHED A RAPPORT WITH HER AUDIENCE THAT NEVER DIMINISHED.

DOLLY IS NOTED AS A SINGER AND SONGWRITER OF POSITIVE, UP-BEAT SELECTIONS, AS WELL AS A CREATER OF SENSITIVE, HEART-WRENCHING LYRICS. BEFORE THE CONCERT, DOLLY

VOICE (CONT) EXPLAINED TO VOA REPORTER JUDITH MASSA THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG SHE INCLUDES IN ALL HER PERFORMANCES, CALLED "COAT OF MANY COLORS":

TAPE: CUT TWO - DOLLY PARTON (1:24)

VOICE: (FEMALE) THAT'S MY VERY FAVORITE SONG OF THOSE I'VE WRITTEN. IT'S A TRUE STORY ABOUT MY MAMMA AND ME, AND IT JUST KINDA SHOWS THE WAY THAT POOR PEOPLE WITH A LOT OF FAITH AND DETERMINATION THINK. MAMA ALWAYS TAUGHT US THAT YOU'RE ONLY POOR IF YOU CHOOSE TO BE...THAT MONEY DON'T MAKE YOU RICH...IT'S HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT LIFE AND HOW YOU TREAT PEOPLE AND WHAT YOU TRY TO CONTRIBUTE TO LIFE THAT REALLY IS THE REAL WEALTH. THE SONG "COAT OF MANY COLORS", AS YOU KNOW, IS A STORY FROM THE BIBLE, WITH JOSEPH AND JACOB AND THE COAT OF MANY COLORS. BEING FROM A FAMILY OF TWELVE KIDS, WE WERE VERY POOR. PEOPLE USED TO SEND US SCRAPS AND RAGS AND OLD HAND-ME-DOWN CLOTHES, AND MAMA WOULD TRY TO MAKE THEM TO FIT US. THIS ONE PARTICULAR TIME, SOMEBODY HAD SENT A BOX OF SCRAPS FOR MAMA TO MAKE QUILTS OUT OF. I DIDN'T HAVE A COAT, AND WE DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO BUY ONE, AND MAMA MADE ME A LITTLE COAT OUT OF CORDUROY SCRAPS. AND WHILE SHE SEWED, SHE TOLD ME THAT I SHOULD BE REAL PROUD OF IT. WHEN I GOT TO SCHOOL, THOUGH, PATCHWORK WAS NOT IN STYLE AT THAT TIME, AND SO IT WAS JUST A LOT OF SCRAPS SEWN TOGETHER, AND THE KIDS LAUGHED AT ME. I THOUGHT I LOOKED LIKE JOSEPH, AND I KEPT TRYING TO TELL THEM, YOU KNOW, HOW I LOOKED LIKE JOSEPH AND HOW MY COAT WAS REAL SPECIAL...MORE SPECIAL THAN ALL THE CLOTHES THEY HAD. IT DIDN'T SEEM

VOICE: (CONT) TO WORK...THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT. BUT I ALWAYS TREASURED THAT AS A SPECIAL THING, BECAUSE I LEARNED SOME GOOD LESSONS FROM IT."

HERE IS DOLLY PARTON TO SING ABOUT HER "COAT OF MANY COLORS".

TAPE: CUT 3 - COAT OF MANY COLORS (3:04 - CAN BE USED AT WILL)

VOICE: AS IN ALL OF HER CONCERTS, DOLLY LIKES TO TELL HER AUDIENCES ABOUT HER CHILDHOOD AND HER FAMILY. NOW THIRTY-TWO YEARS OLD, SHE TELLS HOW SHE GREW UP WITH HER ELEVEN BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS, IN EASTERN TENNESSEE. ALTHOUGH THE FAMILY WAS POOR, DOLLY REMEMBERS HER EARLY YEARS AS BEING VERY HAPPY AND FULL. SHE STARTED SINGING ALMOST AS SOON AS SHE COULD TALK. BEFORE SHE COULD READ OR WRITE, SHE BEGAN MAKING UP SONGS AND WOULD ASK HER MOTHER TO WRITE THEM DOWN. FROM THAT DAY TO THIS, DOLLY'S SONGS FOCUS ON LOVE AND FAMILY. RELIGION IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT TO HER, AND MANY OF HER SONGS REFLECT A GENTLE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE.

AT THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN, DOLLY MOVED TO NASHVILLE, DETERMINED TO BECOME A RECOGNIZED COUNTRY MUSIC SINGER AND COMPOSER. SHE WAS SOON OFFERED A JOB AS A REGULAR PERFORMER ON THE POPULAR TELEVISION PROGRAM STARRING COUNTRY MUSIC SINGER PORTER WAGONER. HER WEEKLY APPEARANCES ON THAT SHOW BROUGHT HER NATIONAL RECOGNITION, AND SOON SHE WAS OUT ON HER OWN AS A FULL-FLEDGED STAR. DURING THE PAST YEAR, DOLLY HAS FELT THE NEED TO GROW AND

VOICE: (CONT) CHANGE PROFESSIONALLY, AND WHILE SHE STILL SINGS COUNTRY MUSIC, SHE HAS ALSO BECOME A POP SINGER. DOLLY'S NEW STYLE IS VERY EVIDENT IN HER CURRENT HIT, "HEARTBREAKER", WHICH WAS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING'S PERFORMANCE.

TAPE: CUT FOUR - HEARTBREAKER (3:30 - CAN BE USED AT WILL)

ANNCR: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SINGER DOLLY PARTON ENJOYS ENTERTAINING AND IN THE PROCESS ENTHRALLS HER AUDIENCE. CERTAINLY THIS WAS SO AT HER RECENT CONCERT AT THE OUT-DOOR MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION NEAR WASHINGTON, D.C.

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